TYCI

ZINE THREE

TUFF LOVE

ABORTION IN IRELAND
HOW SOON IS NOW ///
HOW BAD IS CUNT

FEBRUARY 2013

FREEFREEFREE

FILM CRITICS & SEXISM

Following the glut of pre-New Year 'Best Of' lists, Helen Wright talks about the presence and recognition of women the film industry.

In 2012, influential British film mag Sight & Sound published its decennial Greatest Films of All Time list.

Out of the top hundred movies voted for by critics, only two were directed by female persons. This is part of a perennial, acknowledged problem that less females make it as directors in the industry. Sight & Sound's editor, Nick James, appeared to suggest that critics have zero responsibility for this state of affairs. Following the poll, he wrote, "As for the small number of the chosen films that were made by women, that isn't something you can lay at the door of critics. It's the world's film industries that under-employ women..."

I find this a little difficult to swallow. James' claim is equivalent to saying critics are factory line workers who exist to stamp their praise on 'important' products. The effective implication is that there is such a thing as an objectively 'great' film. This is, of course, total nonsense. Works of art venerated by a society are reflective of the latter's values. It's a well-established fact that our culture elevates the male over the female in judgements of artistic worth. Cinema is not exceptional in this regard. On the question of whether critics hold any accountability for this, there are several points to consider.

Firstly, there are a set of films which are traditionally deemed masterpieces of the medium, the type found in Sight & Sound's poll. These are overwhelmingly male-directed…

Which works are important to film history or represent aesthetic peaks are subjective considerations and somewhat arbitrary. Sight & Sound's top two films, 'Vertigo' and 'Citizen Kane', hover at the apex of such lists due to a lack of imagination or interest critics have in upending them. It wouldn't be that difficult for concepts of importance or aesthetics to take in gender politics. Critics could place emphasis on atoning for sexism and bring about appropriate revisions to the canon. This would first require them to accept that sexism is an issue and to admit critics have power to address it. Then, it would mean putting in a little effort to do so.

Secondly, those who are willing might ponder how the aesthetics of films with a female person at the helm are likely - not guaranteed but likely - to differ. As they are typically allotted smaller budgets, female-directed works are less inclined to be epics with abundant casts. They are, as James implies, often more personal, lower-key projects. Their interests may be more female-positioned, more likely to focus on, for instance, the resonances of women's traditional roles. 'Jeanne Dielman', Chantal Akerman's brilliant study of an apartment-bound mother and prostitute and one of the two female-directed productions with a place in Sight & Sound's top hundred, falls into this category. It's hard to find many other films in the roll call which have such an authentic-feeling feminine viewpoint. (Possible and intriguing exceptions might be gender-bending works like 'Psycho' and 'Some Like It Hot', or otherwise queer-leaning films 'Fear Eats the Soul' and 'Imitation of Life.') Critics could perhaps contemplate whether reassessing the cultural value of particular styles and subject matter might alter their judgement of the relative merit of individual works…

THIS IS AN EXCERPT. FOR THE FULL ARTICLE, VISIT TYCI.ORG.UK.

Q&A: TUFF LOVE

INTERVIEW BY LAUREN MAYBERRY

WE HAD A 30 SECOND CATCH UP WITH GLASGOW BAND TUFF LOVE AHEAD OF THEIR GIG FOR TYCI IN JANUARY.

WHO ARE TUFF LOVE?

JULIE EISENSTEIN PLAYS GUITAR AND SINGS, SUSAN BEAR PLAYS BASS AND SINGS BACK-UP, AND MICHAEL O'HARA PLAYS DRUMS.

HOW DID YOU GET TOGETHER?

WE'VE BEEN PLAYING TOGETHER FOR A COUPLE OF YEARS BUT ONLY STARTED GIGGING DURING THE SUMMER. SUSE AND JULIE STARTED MAKING MORE ACOUSTIC SORT OF STUFF THEN DECIDED IT WOULD BE NICE TO TURN THE SONGS INTO FULL BAND SONGS. MICHAEL JOINED FAIRLY RECENTLY.

HOW WOULD YOU DESCRIBE THE TUFF LOVE SOUND?

MELANCHOLY LO-FI POP.

WHAT BANDS / ARTISTS INFLUENCE YOU?

WEEZER, BEST COAST, THE ORGAN... WE ALL LISTEN TO DIFFERENT STUFF, BUT THOSE ARE A FEW. WE LIKE THREE-PIECE BANDS THAT MAKE THE MOST OF THEIR INSTRUMENTS.

WHAT'S THE BEST PART ABOUT BEING IN A BAND?

JUST BEING ABLE TO GET EXCITED ABOUT SONGS, IDEAS AND PLANS WITH YOUR FRIENDS.

ANY GREAT ROCK 'N' ROLL STORIES TO TELL?

WE DROVE TO BERLIN TO PLAY OUR SECOND GIG IN THE SUMMER; IT TOOK 24 HOURS SOLID DRIVING EACH WAY IN OUR LITTLE VW POLO. WE NEARLY DIED ON THE AUTOBAHN A FEW TIMES AND PRETTY MUCH NONE OF US SLEPT FOR THE WHOLE WEEKEND... BUT WE MET SOME GREAT PEOPLE AND PLAYED A REALLY FUN GIG.

WHAT ARE YOUR PLANS FOR 2013?

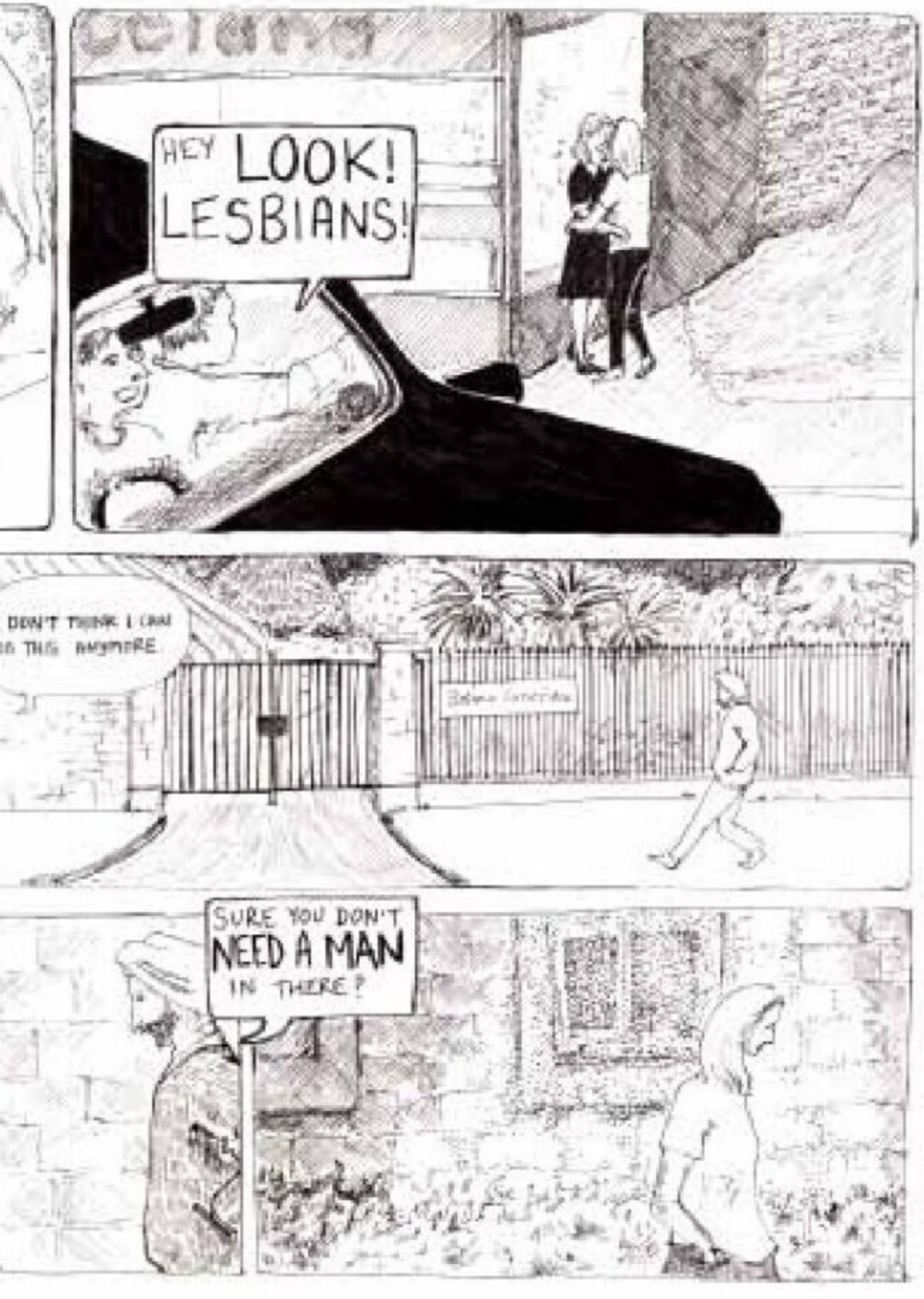
KEEPING BUSY. WE ARE RECORDING SONGS, RELEASING AN EP, AND DOING LOADS MORE GIGS – WE'D LIKE TO DO A SCOTTISH TOUR TOO.

FOR MORE ON THE BAND, VISIT FACEBOOK.COM/PAGES/TUFF-LOVE OR HEAD TO SOUNDCLOUD.COM/TUFF-LOVE.

RULE OF THREE*

BY
HELEN WRIGHT
AND
JENNY SPEIRS

*A TRUE STORY TOLD TO THE WRITER BY A FRIEND.


HEY LOOK! LESBIANS!
DON'T THINK I CAN
TAKE THIS ANYMORE
SURE YOU DON'T NEED A MAN IN THERE?

ABORTION IN IRELAND

EMILY MOLLOY TALKS ABOUT THE CONTROVERSY SURROUNDING ABORTION IN IRELAND.

AFTER the opening of the first Marie Stopes Clinic in Belfast and the untimely death of Savita Halappanavar, the issue of abortion in Ireland is hard to ignore.

Malta and Ireland are the only countries left in Europe to outlaw abortion, with Ireland only allowing it if the woman's life is in risk, including that of suicide. However, with the recent death of Mrs Halappanavar - allegedly refused an abortion due to 'Ireland being a Catholic country' - the harsh reality of what it takes for Irish doctors to carry out the procedure has become startlingly clear. This year's Diwali festival in Galway was cancelled to honour the death one of the central women organising the event. There have been several large protests to call for changes in Ireland's abortion laws since this, but it is a slow moving - if not static - issue.

October this year saw the opening of the first Marie Stopes clinic in Ireland and it was met with a lot of opposition. Where there is support, it is still not enough, as private clinics following the tight abortion laws cannot make the appropriate developments needed to make any real changes in law and public perception.

Looking at public opinion, abortion seems to be the one area which Republicans and Unionists manage to agree on; in a province of extreme views there is no room for liberalism.

It is important to look at the context in which this is happening and we should not underestimate the psychological effect of living in such a province. Adorno would be having a field day, looking at the social ramifications of a never ending civil war, modern day consumerism and a total disregard for rationalism and autonomous thinking in the microcosm that is Ireland.

Perhaps you could point your finger at the church and say it is all their fault. Personally I wouldn't afford them so much power and regard the aggressive pro-life brigade as the response to a dying religious ideology, which is draped in financial scandal and abuse claims. The last bastion of Irish religious identity, left scorned and barren in a society moving away from antiquity and its outdated rhetoric.

Whatever the cause or whoever you want to blame, it doesn't stop women getting themselves into debt by travelling to UK to receive private treatment, or even risking their health by giving themselves the treatment at home after ordering the the medication online. It is an issue that is finally getting addressed after years of mysticism surrounding the abortionist and the 'mortal sin' of the woman getting the procedure. It is time we stopped with the taboo and began to approach the issue with a touch of realism.

YOU CAN SHOW YOUR SUPPORT ONLINE BY VISITING CHOICEIRELAND.ORG.

How soon is now / How bad is 'Cunt'?

A few weeks ago, our wee website upset some folks over at a STV. And all because of the use of one little word...

A preview of the first TYCI live event existed on the STV local site for about 20 minutes before being removed by an editor, because of what TYCI stands for. For those of you who don't know, TYCI is short for 'Tuck Your Cunt In' - the meaning akin to a feminine version of man up. Taking charge of your own destiny, and really getting things done. This positive message was our goal. We don't shout the full phrase from the rooftops, preferring to refer to the blog by the acronym, and use the initials only in all our logos, branding and advertising. The full name is more for the ethos than to deliberately piss people off, and we would like to thank the journalist who got in touch with us to do a profile on the club - she was completely professional and seemed downright lovely, and we accept that, as a family-friendly website, STV can't be seen to be DOING RUDE STUFF. This article is not a dig at STV, more a musing on why, when there are so many downright hideous things going on in the world, language can still cause such offense.

My feeling is that word use, ultimately, depends on context - where / when you are saying the word and what its intended meaning is. I personally would never, for example, call someone a cunt in an argument. In those circumstances, it just isn't the word which would occur to me (not because I am a priss, ok? But more because I prefer other, more standard swearies such as ARSEHOLE, BASTARD or PRICK on those occasions - how do you like me NOW, STV swear filter?!). I do, however, know lots of people who would use the word 'cunt' in that situation. I also have friends - probably exclusively Scottish ones, mind - who would use the word to mean 'people' or 'folk'. For example, "What are those cunts doing?", or "How are you doing,
you big cunt?" In this instance, I guess that cunt is meant affectionately. Whether the recipient takes it that way is up to them.

In the case of TYCI, the idea that we shouldn't use the word in the slogan because it is offensive to women seems to completely miss the point of the name. Aside from the fact that this argument completely disregards any of those linguists and academics who say that negatively construed words can be reclaimed for positive uses (see the entire argument behind the so naming of Slut Walks), it also ignores the fact that there is an irony in the name of our site. It is tongue in cheek and the ethos behind the name makes perfect sense when you consider what we here at TYCI want to do - challenge perceptions and promote discussion, but do so in a humorous, light-hearted way, aiming to get people involved in conversations about things relevant to women without feeling like they need to adhere to certain ideas of 'what feminism should be' or 'how a feminist should behave'.

So, to those who whimpered and clasped their pearls when they realised what the name meant - maybe you should tuck yours in too, and just bloody get onboard. Life's too effin' short.

Say it with me, now. CUNT, CUNT, CUNT, CUNT, CUNT.

Words by Hanna Barbaric

TYCI LIVE #4

SATURDAY 9TH FEBRUARY 11PM - 3AM

TYCI (www.tyci.org.uk) is a brand new collective dedicated to exploring and celebrating all things femme.

TYCI stands for Tuck Your Cunt In. The meaning is something akin to a feminine version of 'man up'. Sorting yourself out. Taking charge of your own destiny. Pulling yourself up by the bootstraps and bloody well getting things done – and this is exactly what we hope to achieve.

Run by women, we aim to provide an open forum in which to discuss news and current affairs, art, music and film, pop culture and political issues which affect us in every day life, as well as interviews, opinion pieces and the odd bit of giggling and japes, providing a place to share ideas and make connections.

This zine is a collection of some of the content from our website and is distributed in conjunction with our monthly live event at Bloc. We hope to provide a platform for female DJs, MCs and musicians, showcasing both local and international talent in an environment far removed from the 'taps aff' gig nights which have become commonplace in Glasgow venues in recent years (Too. Much. Testosterone. Must. Find. Air.)

If you would like to get involved, reply to any of our articles or just generally
say hi to hit us up on contact.tyci@gmail.com.

Zine design: Cecilia Stamp